

CPF

Canadian Parents for French British Columbia and Yukon Branch

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President's Report

Canadian Parents for French -- BC & Yukon branch has had another successful year -- fabulous events, great partners, new programs and wonderful members doing valuable work for all the children and young adults who benefit from French language opportunities in communities throughout British Columbia and the Yukon.

CPF's membership now tops 7,500 representing almost 30 per cent of members of the entire national network -- a boon to our first strategic goal which is, "to create and mobilize an advocacy force that secures the future of FSL". Our four regional mini-conferences, more popularly known as Francopaloozas, focused on local issues which this year we're taking "To the Top", striving to achieve consensus on common themes and position statements that we can carry forward to decision-makers not just in our local communities, but in Victoria as well.

Our financial health has never been better. Concentrating over the past year on diversifying funding sources at the branch level has netted us an admirable ratio of almost 1:1 Canadian Heritage and non-Canadian Heritage funding, an accomplishment which is taking us a long way

towards achieving our second strategic goal, that of ensuring "our long term viability while maintaining our integrity of vision".

CPF's third strategic goal, in the communication spectrum, is "to be valued and recognized as an effective and influential voice on FSL". CPF is a member of several multi-stakeholder groups focused on assessing BC's progress in fulfilling its educational plan with respect to FSL, and in addressing some of the critical issues we confront, including the acute shortage of teachers. At the branch level, we remain strategically linked to the Fédération des francophones et Francophiles de la Colombie-Britannique and their members as we work together to achieve common advocacy goals and develop unified initiatives to address roadblocks to programs. And we know from the reports we hear back from the chapter that CPF continues to be valued

by language coordinators, schools and district administrators, as a solid source of information, guidance and support in their efforts to continually assess and improve French programmes.



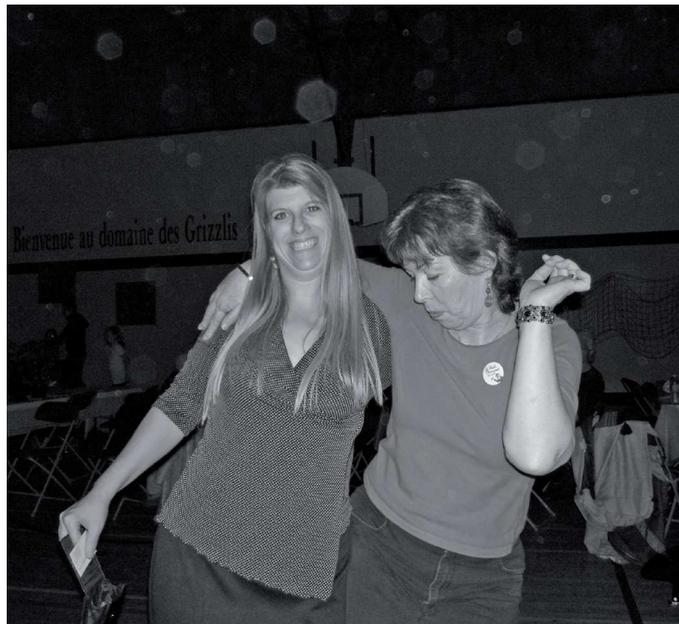
Victoria immersion student Liam Farrar gives a big thumbs up to BC Family French Camp, one of many activities supported by CPF.

Our communication outreach efforts continue to revolve around our newsletter – you'll note that recent issues have focused on challenges to Core French (with particular emphasis on Intensive French), solutions to the teacher's shortage, and, most recently, the role of parents as advocates. But we are also out there in the broader community. Partner invitations continue to fill our calendar with receptions at the legislature, luncheons at the Canadian Club, bilingual job fairs at Educacentre, meetings with Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages, and education coalition meetings to name a few. Each of these events affords us the opportunity to meet with partners, inform decision-makers, raise awareness among students and parents, and much more.

On the educational front, and this is where the rubber hits the road, CPF continues to increase access to, and maintain and improve the quality of, FSL educational and cultural programs in the public school system, our fourth strategic goal. This year we have worked to support three new campaigns for French immersion programs, in Powell River, Pemberton, and Bowen Island. Enrolment in French programs is up 25 per cent over the last five years while there has been an overall drop in total enrolment in the public school system. Intensive Core French doubled in size in Surrey where it first was piloted in BC and Vancouver school district introduced the program last fall.

Equally important, CPF distributed more than \$73,000 in rebates to chapters and an additional \$50,000 in socio-cultural grant money, supporting the incredible community activities that our

members organize each year. Last year alone, all of the members together contributed more than 40,000 hours of volunteer time to the organizing of CPF campaigns and activities locally. Now that's impressive! At the same time, staff evaluated the socio-cultural granting process and made some modifications to allow for better tracking, and for the sharing of ideas for projects. A beautiful new venue for Concours d'Art Oratoire attracted record numbers of participants and participation now tops 300 for the provincial finals, with more than 10,000 participating in the event overall.



Charmaine Brade-Nixon, kindergarten immersion teacher and CPF's Nancy Taylor kick it up at Francopalooza.

Our final strategic goal targets infrastructure, the myriad information systems, financial, material and human resources that need to be in place to meet commitments, and to offer staff a rich and rewarding working environment. Launching our new website last January, securing a new office location, updating our media, school and partner lists have all been part of that process of improving the way in which we deliver our services. We

welcome everyone to visit at us at our new office: Suite 623, 409 Granville in downtown Vancouver.

Retaining staff in the most competitive labour market BC has experienced in thirty years remains among our central challenges. Nonetheless, staff manages to deliver, and affairs at the branch are anything but dull. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed, capable executive director, stellar staff, well-organized coordinators, special projects assistants and dedicated volunteers. Rita Parikh, Dimitry Morales, Elyn Dobbs, Susan Albion, and our newest addition to the gang, Marie-Chantal Lepage make an exceptional team. Nancy Taylor, Heidi Clarkson, Ellen Huyberts, and Lana Sangara, long-term and committed CPFers,

Bouquet de merci winners

The BC and Yukon branch of Canadian Parents for French is delighted to honour long-time CPF supporters and committed FSL activists, Lana Sanghara and Bruno Tessier with the 2007 Bouquet de Merci. This peer-nominated award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual or organization towards the goals and mission of CPF.



Bruno Tessier

Bruno Tessier is an Early French Immersion teacher at the Ecole Christine Morrison Elementary School in Mission; before that, he taught Late French Immersion at Chalmers Elementary in North Delta. He started supporting CPF by coordinating and running le Camp Bons Jeux in Surrey in the mid-90's, and has been a Senior Moniteur and the Head Moniteur at CPF's Rencontre Francaise at Simon Fraser University for many years.

President's Report continued from page 2

and Kris Taylor our technical support, have also been vital to the work we've done this year. We wish those who have left us the best of luck!

The Board too is exceptional. Each individual's special strengths complement the group. Governance has truly been a joint effort and a great learning experience. I am certain the new board will ably take on the challenge to keep CPF BC and Yukon moving ahead as the strong and vibrant organization it is.

We wish you all the best and thank everyone for their commitment to this incredible organization.

Heather Newman, President



Lana Sanghara and her children

Lana Sanghara has two sons well on their way to becoming bilingual, and a daughter just beginning in immersion, which is a considerable commitment given that each of her children attend a different school. As a compliance officer for the federal government, she has observed the government's continual search for bilingual officers and other staff, a reality which motivated her and her husband to consider immersion for her children. Out of a desire to enhance French second-language opportunities in her children's school, she became involved with the Surrey chapter of CPF, serving as treasurer, and coordinating film festivals, winter carnivals, and a wine and cheese night for teachers and staff, among other activities. Lana has been coordinator of CPF's provincial Concours d'art oratoire for the past four years.

Know someone who's demonstrated outstanding commitment to French second language opportunities in your community? We'd love to hear their story! Email us at info@cpf.bc.ca.

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of Canadian Parents for French BC & YUKON is pleased to report for the April 2006 - March 2007 financial year, that:

CPF BC & YUKON remains in a solid positive financial position and ended the year with a modest surplus budget.

Ensuring that all reports are complete and submitted on time secures funding and provides a consistent, predictable cash flow. At no time in the past year was CPF BC & YUKON in a position of having to borrow money or delay payments.

Accounting procedures continues to be streamlined and fine-tuned to better reflect the actual expenditures and project areas. This critical step better substantiates funding proposals and supports more accurate forecasting of budgets.

Financial diversification adopted, by the 2005-2006 board, as a strategic goal to ensure the long-term viability of the Branch was pursued with success. In 2005-2006, non-Canadian Heritage grants totaled \$200,593 or 38 percent of all revenues. In 2006-2007 non Canadian Heritage revenue totaled \$331,343 or 51 percent. This diversification has been achieved through the signing of a four-year contribution agreement with the Ministry of Education, expanding our advertising revenue and producing a post secondary educational supplement, securing grants from universities and other post secondary institutions, signing a one-time technology grant agreement with Industry Canada, organizing fundraising activities including marketplaces and an auction, and gaining in-kind support from community-level businesses.

We look forward to another successful year.

Respectfully submitted

2 November 2007
CPF BC & Yukon AGM, Ottawa, Ontario
CPF BC & Yukon Finance Committee Members

Heather Newman – Board President
Victoria Vaseleniuck – Board Member
Rita Parikh – Executive Director
Susan Albion – Bookkeeper



Visit us at our new location
623-409 Granville Street
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1.800.665.1222 or
778.329.9115

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Fiscal Year April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007

Revenues	2006-2007	2005-2006
Canadian Heritage – Core Grant	287,105	287,105
Canadian Heritage – Other	23,465	35,800
Other Federal Government	16,500	0
BC Ministry of Education	166,123	66,253
Membership Rebates	79,783	54,922
Donations	10,850	16,565
Program Revenue	58,087	62,854
		0
Total Revenue	641,913	523,498

Expenses	2006-2007	2005-2006
Education and Outreach	137,270	85,865
Chapter Support	223,935	209,997
Governance	51,949	73,856
Programmes	197,120	138,974
Total Expenses	610,274	508,692
Excess in Revenue over Expenses	31,639	*14,806

Balance Sheet for the year ended March 31, 2007

	2006-2007	2005-2006
Assets	310,756	266,968
Liabilities	173,536	159,387
Funds balance	137,220	**107,581

Excerpted from audited statements from Helen Ross (CA). (Copies of audited statements are available upon request.)

* A transcription error in last year's abbreviated statements led to an addition error of \$10. The corrected amount appears here.

* * A transcription error in last year's abbreviated statements led to the incorrect funds balance being recorded last year. The corrected amount appears here.

Board of Directors 2006-2007



Pictured from left to right, in the top row are Victoria Vaseleniuck, Sabine Schweiger (vice-president), Heather Newman (president) and Leila Remfry, in the middle, Marie Reed, and in the bottom row, Marcella Navarro (vice-president) and Marie Genest.

Nominations Committee Report

The nominations process began in December 2006 with the formation of the Nominations Committee by board members Leila Remfry and Marie Reed. In June 2007, they were joined by Mariette Brinkerink (Maple Ridge) and Michelle Reith (Kamloops) to complete the 2007 Nominations Committee.

Simultaneous requests were made to the membership for committee members and nominations to the board. These requests were posted in the monthly Chapter Representative Updates, the CPF—BC & Yukon newsletter and letters to chapter presidents. The call for volunteers and nominations was not productive.

Board brainstorming sessions produced a list of potential candidates. The 2006 recommendation of a May 1 deadline for nominations was instituted.

Following the close of nominations, two self-nominations were received. An extensive phone and email campaign was necessary to recruit more candidates and two additional committee members.

Brief biographies were received from the candidates, a set of interview questions drafted and teleconference interviews conducted from mid-June to mid-July.

The nominees selected for a two-year term beginning November 2007 are as follows:

**Heather Doty
Joy Haley
Brittany Harris
Debra Pool**

**Parksville
Maple Ridge
Youth Director
Vernon**

Submitted by
Marie Reed

August 2007

Board of Directors Elections 2007-2008

New Nominees

Heather Doty has lived in Parksville since 1994 and has been a member of the Parksville CPF chapter for the past seven years. She is self-employed doing computer training, bookkeeping, and taxes. Heather is also active in the Oceanside Women's Business Network and SD 69's French Immersion PAC. Heather is concerned about the shortage of teacher, the quality of existing teachers, keeping current programs strong and starting new programs.

Joy Haley has been a CPF member for 17 years in Maple Ridge. She was instrumental in reviving the Maple Ridge chapter when it appeared that the chapter would fold shortly after its inception. Joy has had a career in banking, has owned her own marketing business and has served a term on municipal council. She is now retired and looking forward to once again being an active volunteer with CPF.

Brittany Harris is a French Immersion graduate from Maple Ridge now attending Simon Fraser University. Her goal is to graduate with a major In Sociology and a minor in Women's Studies. She volunteers at the SFU Women's Centre, SFU's Out on Campus and as a Girl Guide leader. Brittany strongly feels that the French language needs to be promoted in Western Canada to enhance Canadian unity and to help students realize their potential as bilingual citizens.

Debra Pool has been a CPF member for ten years and the president of the Vernon chapter for the past eight years. She has been involved in finding an alternate plan to capping, the start-up of a Late immersion program, programming challenges at the high school level and the integration of a special needs child into FI. Debra is also involved in BC Family French Camp, a Ministry of Education Accreditation team, the North Okanagan Youth Soccer Association, the local FASD committee and the Baby Think it Over project.

Up for Re-election

Sabine Schweiger hails from Whitehorse where she has been an active CPF member since 2001. Sabine helped organize the CPF BC/Yukon conference in 2003, and assisted with the introduction of late immersion as an option for Whitehorse students. She serves as a part-time environmental coordinator with the City of Whitehorse, and is completing a master's degree in environmental education. Sabine has plenty of energy and dedication, and hopes to continue her work on the CPF BC & Yukon Board, working to ensure that French immersion continues to grow in strength and vitality.

Marcela Navarro was born and raised in Mexico City, immigrating to Canada in 1982. For the past 24 years she has worked as a medical laboratory technologist at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital. Because Marcela values French as a second language, she enrolled her two daughters, Jennifer and Jessica, in French immersion. They have both recently graduated from the program and yet Marcela is passionate enough about French immersion to continue her involvement at the provincial level. She is a firm believer that parent involvement in children's education improves student attitude and achievement. Not one to sit back and relax now that her daughters are grown, Marcela continues to be involved in her community: she volunteers with the Canadian Red Cross, CIBC Run for the Cure, Telus Tour for the Cure, and several boards of non-profit societies.

Victoria Vaseleniuck – Literary passion sparked Victoria's interest in languages. When the family moved to the small community of Nelson in 1997, they were more than a little surprised to discover that this School District offered only late French immersion (and capped at that) in a province where French instruction was demanded and growing by leaps and bounds. Victoria became actively involved with Canadian Parents for French when a small

continued on page 8

Continued from page seven

group of parents reestablished the Nelson Chapter and then actively worked to reinstate the French Advisory Council. Their latest challenge was to open up an early immersion program – a bid which has yet to reach a successful result. Victoria looks forward to putting her advocacy skills to good use in addressing the many changes and challenges to and within the education system.

Retiring from the Board

CPF bids a fond farewell to Heather Newman of Dawson Creek, Marie Reed of Kamloops, Marie Genest of Pitt Meadows, and Leila Remfry of Maple Ridge. Thank you for your incredible commitment!

Un Grand Merci!

The BC and Yukon chapter of Canadian Parents for French is grateful to the many organizations that have offered support to us over the past year. In particular, we wish to express our gratitude to:

The Department of Canadian Heritage
 The BC Ministry of Education
 BC Family French Camp
 Bureau des affaires francophones et francophiles
 The Canadian Club
 Collège Educacentre College
 College Heights School
 Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la C-B
 Duchess Park School
 École Austin Elementary School
 École Secondaire Esquimalt High School
 Encounters With Canada

Fédération des francophones et francophiles de la C-B
 Simon Fraser University
 The French Consulate
 Industry Canada
 Métropolis Bleu
 Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages
 Central Okanagan School District 23, Vancouver
 School District 39, Victoria School District 61
 Spruceland Elementary School
 Théâtre la seizième
 Université Laval
 Verbathon



CPF celebrates its new partnership with the Centre de leadership et d'aventure en nature in Powell River, and the inauguration of CPF's first ever Rencontre en plein air.